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## SAN MANUEL'S VALBUENA RE-ELECTED TO SIXTH TERM AS NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING ASSOCIATION SECRETARY DURING ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Association Membership Unanimous in Support

**SAN MANUEL INDIAN NATION (San Bernardino, Calif.)** – **March 29, 2007** – Member Indian Nations of the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) re-elected Lynn "Nay" Valbuena of California's San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, to a sixth term at its annual membership meeting and trade show in Phoenix, AZ on March 27.

In a show of unanimous support from the NIGA membership Valbuena was elected by acclimation. She begins her sixth, two year term, as custodian of the organization's official records and roster of membership. Valbuena also is charged with facilitating communications between NIGA and its member tribes through out the United States.

"I am honored by the election results," said Valbuena. "Our member Indian Nations are great to work with, and I look forward to serving them again over the next term."

NIGA is a national organization composed of 184 Indian Nations. Its purpose is to advocate for the governmental gaming rights of Indian Tribes and protect tribal sovereignty. Elections for officers are held at each annual membership meeting. The national officers serve staggered terms with positions for chairman and secretary up for election this year. Incumbent chairman Ernie Stevens Jr., a member of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, was also re-elected.

## ABOUT THE SAN MANUEL BAND OF SERRANO MISSION INDIANS

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of San Bernardino, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.